

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are currently pending. Claims 2-3 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 9-12, and 20-22 have been amended.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,886,054 (Taninaka).

In the present invention, the apparatus for supporting the configuration of a storage system is characterized in designing a storage system (including a path) using temporary port numbers. When configuring the system according to the design, actual port numbers are obtained from an actual system, and the temporary numbers are replaced with the actual port numbers. According to this feature a system can be configured even at the stage where actual port numbers are unknown.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9-12, and 20-22 are patentable over Taninaka, as Taninaka does not disclose, "an inquiry unit which inquires port information of respective ports provided in an upper level device and an input/output device provided in an actually configured storage system," and "a replace unit which replaces the temporary port information being used in the previously prepared path information with actual port information obtained by the inquiry," as recited in independent claim 1, for example.

In contrast to the present invention, Taninaka is based on an established system. That is, although Taninaka discloses a process for updating a configuration, the updating process merely demonstrates the change of the configuration of a system that is actually established. The present invention, in contrast, replaces temporary port information.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9-12, and 20-22 are patentable over the reference, as the reference fails to teach the above-identified feature.

As the dependent claims depend from respective independent claims, the dependent claims are patentable over the reference for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/784,180

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 

Reginald D. Lucas  
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501